

Pursuant to the due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the North Mankato City Council was held in the Municipal Building Council Chambers on January 17, 2023. Mayor Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, asking everyone to join the Pledge of Allegiance. The following were present for roll call: Council Members Peterson, Whitlock, Steiner, Oachs, City Administrator McCann, Interim Finance Director Ryan, Community Development Director Fischer, Public Works Director Arnold (remote), and City Clerk Van Genderen.

Approval of Agenda

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs, to approve the agenda as presented. Vote on the motion Peterson, Whitlock, Steiner, Oachs, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Approval of Council Minutes from January 3, 2023, Council Meeting.

Council Member Oachs moved, seconded by Council Member Peterson, to approve the Council Meeting Minutes of January 3, 2023. Vote on the motion Peterson, Whitlock, Steiner, Oachs, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Public Hearing, 7 pm Consider Amending City Code Chapter 52 Section 52.07

Interim Finance Director Ryan reported the City currently had a mixture of manual and automatic read meters. The City no longer installs manual read meters and would like to change all meters to automatic read meters. The proposed ordinance would require anyone obtaining a plumbing permit over \$2,000 first install an automatic read meter. The ordinance would also require all residents who do not read their meters for 6 months to install automatic read meters. It also requires new automatic read meter installation when a property is sold.

With no comments, Mayor Carlson closed the Public Hearing.

Consent Agenda

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Peterson, to approve the Consent Agenda.

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 7-23 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Set a Public Hearing on February 6, 2023, at 7 pm Concerning an Application to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for a Grant Under the Minnesota Investment Fund (MIF) program.
- D. Authorized Scott Carlson and Jessica Ryan as Signatories for Frandsen Bank.
- E. Accepted and Implemented the January Traffic & Safety Committee Recommendations.

Vote on the motion Peterson, Whitlock, Steiner, Oachs, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Public Comments Concerning Business Items on the Agenda.

Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, appeared before Council and suggested the Sales Tax Resolution not specify the Caswell Indoor Recreation Facility as the use of the funds. She asked what the City was doing for kids that were not interested in sports.

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, appeared before Council and requested Council not pursue the recreational facility and slow the process down.

Business Items**Consider Ordinance No. 155, An Ordinance of the City of North Mankato, Minnesota, Amending North Mankato City Code Chapter 52 Section 52.07 Water Meters.**

Interim Finance Director Ryan summarized the three times a new water meter would be required, which included the sale of property, a plumbing permit over \$2,000 dollars, and 6 months of non-meter readings. A discussion was held concerning the specifics of the Ordinance, including if both commercial and residential were included, the amount set for plumbing permits, and the lack of knowledge for those that are planning remodels or sales. Council Member Steiner suggested rewriting the ordinance to answer questions concerning how the ordinance would be implemented.

Council Member Whitlock moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to Table the Ordinance and Bring the Topic to a Council Work Session. Vote on the motion Peterson, Whitlock, Steiner, Oachs, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Res. No. 8-23 Requesting the Advance of Municipal State Aid Funds for Municipal Construction Projects and Bond Principal Payment.

City Engineer Sarff said that the Minnesota Department of Transportation allows cities to advance municipal state aid funds as required to construct state-aid projects when the city's Municipal State Aid Construction account does not have adequate funds to cover the eligible costs. The City of North Mankato is requesting an advance of Municipal State Aid Funds in the amount of up to \$985,000 for the construction of the Lor Ray Drive/Howard Drive Roundabout Project. A \$250,000 request is also being made for the payment of the bond principal for the existing State Aid bond that was taken out in 2015 for the TH 14/CSAH 41 interchange project.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs to Adopt Res. No. 8-23 Requesting the Advance of Municipal State Aid Funds for Municipal Construction Projects and Bond Principal Payment. Vote on the motion Peterson, Whitlock, Steiner, Oachs, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Res. No. 9-23 Accepting Bid Project 2023 Mill & Overlay Project.

City Engineer Sarff reported that bids were opened on Tuesday, January 10th at 11:00 am for the 2023 Street and Miscellaneous Paving Improvement Project. The base bid Street Mill and Overlay included James Drive, Northridge Drive, Oak Terrace Drive, and Oak Terrace Court. The base bid Alley Mill and Overlays included four alleys and the Caswell West Parking Lot. Alternate bids included North Ridge Drive Sump Pump Service lines, Oak Terrace Drive Underdrain and Sump Pump Service lines, and Caswell West Parking Lot. There were three bidders with Nielsen Blacktopping, Inc. from Kasota, Minnesota, being the lowest. The low bid for the base bid is approximately 4% lower than the engineer's estimate and approximately 8% below the next low bid. Several bids were removed from the project cost in order for the City to remain within the budget. The final bid amount to be rewarded is \$535,150.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs to Adopt Res. No. 9-23 Accepting Bid Project 2023 Mill & Overlay Project. Vote on the motion Peterson, Whitlock, Steiner, Oachs, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Approve The North Mankato Road Right of Way Plat No. 1

Community Development Director Fischer reported that in the summer of 2023, the City would be installing a roundabout at the intersection of Lor Ray Drive and Howard Drive. To accommodate the design and construction of the roundabout, it is necessary for the City to acquire additional road

right of way in the area. The City has negotiated the purchase of land needed with the adjacent landowners. As part of the process, it is necessary to formally replat the property at the intersection. The Planning Commission reviewed and recommended the final plat.

Council Member Whitlock moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner to Approve The North Mankato Road Right of Way Plat No. 1. Vote on the motion Peterson, Whitlock, Steiner, Oachs, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Res. No. 10-23 Supporting the State Bonding for the Regional Waste Water Resource Recovery Facility.

Interim Finance Director McCann reported that the resolution would support the bonding request for the Regional Sewage and Wastewater Treatment plant in Mankato. The City of North Mankato utilizes the facility. The estimated cost of the upgrade is currently \$89 million, and Mankato is requesting \$44.5 million. Mankato plans to start the project in 2024 and complete the preparation work in 2023. The City of North Mankato will soon renew a five-year contract for use of the facility.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs to adopt Res. No. 10-23 Supporting the State Bonding for the Regional Waste Water Resource Recovery Facility. Vote on the motion Peterson, Whitlock, Steiner, Oachs, and Carlson, aye, no nays. Motion carried.

Res. No. 11-23 to Support the Authority to Extend a Local Sales Tax to Fund Specific Capital Improvements Providing Regional Benefits, to Establish the Duration of the Tax and the Revenue to be Raised by the Tax, and to Authorize the City to Issue Bonds Supported by the Sales Tax Revenue.

City Administrator McCann reported the resolution relates to the Work Session and funding the Caswell Recreation Facility by extending the Local Option Sales Tax by \$6 million. He noted that the City's lobbyist Ward Einess stated that a specific project must be identified. Extending the tax with the plan of supporting the Caswell Recreation Facility, a regional facility, that may receive State support through the bonding request. Both Representative Brands and State Senator Frentz are ready to move forward with promoting the request.

Council Member Oachs questioned why only the Caswell Indoor Recreational facility is mentioned and not other options. City Administrator McCann reported that a specific project must be identified. Mayor Carlson asked if the bonding is not approved and the sales tax is approved can the Council reallocate the funds? City Administrator McCann said yes, as the other options approved by the referendum are still in the bill.

Council Member Whitlock stated that \$6 million is being requested for the Indoor Recreational Facility. If it is not approved, the City will not move forward with the facility. Council Member Peterson commented that if the City gets the extended sales tax and does not get the bonding for the facility, the City cannot move forward with the project. He also addressed concerns from a citizen by stating that the library, which received sales tax funds for its expansion, provides activities and access to the arts. City Administrator McCann reported the library is interested in using the indoor facility space for events and programming.

Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Oachs to Adopt Res. No. 11-23 to Support the Authority to Extend a Local Sales Tax to Fund Specific Capital Improvements Providing Regional Benefits, to Establish the Duration of the Tax and the Revenue to be Raised by the Tax, and to Authorize the City to Issue Bonds Supported by the Sales Tax Revenue. Vote on the motion Peterson, Whitlock, Steiner, and Carlson, aye, Oachs nay. Motion carried.

Open Forum

Tom Hagen, 927 Lake Street, appeared before Council and requested an apology following a public nuisance process.

Mark Haack, 713 Bennett Street, appeared before Council and stated the snow removal by City staff has been inadequate.

City Administrator and Staff Comments

City Administrator McCann reported that the Adult Spelling Bee would occur on January 27, 2023, at the Mankato Brewery and encouraged residents to register.

City Administrator McCann reminded residents of the 14th Annual Anthony Ford Pond Hockey Tournament that will be held on Saturday, January 28th and Sunday, January 29th at Spring Lake Park.

City Administrator McCann reported the Weight Loss Challenge kicked off last Thursday, but you can still register.

City Administrator McCann reminded residents about the Boulevard Tree program. The City offers homeowners the opportunity to purchase a boulevard tree at a reduced price. The application deadline is February 15th.

City Administrator McCann reported that staff is currently working on widening the streets and clearing boulevards of excess snow. Please be patient as it takes time to work through the City.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council Member Oachs stated that even if she voted against the Sales Tax Extension, she is still interested in the Caswell project.

Council Member Steiner commented on a large amount of snow received this year and thanked staff for their work.

Council Member Whitlock commented that snow removal would be easier if there had not been all of the rain.

Mayor Carlson welcomed Public Work Director Arnold. Mayor Carlson stated was excited about being a part of the Council and the process.

Mayor Carlson thanked the Fire Department for their work.

At 7:50 pm, on a motion by Council Member Steiner, seconded by Council Member Oachs, the Council Meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

City Clerk